

Lake County Coastal Plan Committee Minutes

June 27, 2007

The Lake County Coastal Plan Committee hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting of the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee and that all the deliberations of the Planning Commission and its committees, if any, which resulted in formal actions, were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Chairman Harry Allen called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. at the Fairport Harbor Senior Center and gave the floor to Mr. Thomas Hilston, Administrator of Fairport Harbor Village. He explained the Senior Center was doing well and they are thinking of building an addition to house an exercise room for the seniors. He welcomed the Committee to the Center.

Mr. Allen welcomed the visitors: Stephen Rae of Mentor, Jim Barchok of Madison, Jim Anderson of Perry, and Rick Amos of Perry.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Messrs. Allen, Advey, Bochards (for Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells), Gilmer, Hilston, Kish, Klco, Landeg, Noble, Rutledge, Urbanski, Welch, Zeitz and Messes. Foley Kessler and Keneven-Zanella. Staff present: Mr. Boyd, Mr. Webster, and Ms. Myers.

MINUTES

Mr. Welch moved to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2007 meeting and Mr. Advey seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

OLD BUSINESS

County Port Authority Update

Selected members will be announced at the 10:00 a.m. Lake County Board of Commissioners' meeting Thursday, June 28. There will be a reception held at Hellriegel's at 5:00p.m. tomorrow night that will be open to the public to introduce the Lake County Port Authority Board members.

Mr. Boyd felt this Committee heartily deserved credit for their efforts in preparation and pursuing the need for a County Port Authority.

Levee-Type Flood Relief Device Update

A levee-type flood relief mechanism was suggested by Mr. Allen in light of the July 2006 flooding to be placed at the most northern tip of the Grand River where it bends south by Painesville City. This mechanical device could be engaged during high volume events emptying water through culverts and into Lake Erie. Painesville Township, Fairport Harbor, and Painesville City were contacted to see if they were interested. Fairport and Painesville Township

responded, but we have not heard from Painesville City. Mr. Hilston said Fairport Harbor Village would be extremely interested in this project.

Because of last year's flooding in July, Mr. Allen said we have been made aware of some funds that could be used to get this started. The Corps of Engineers have \$100,000 available for a feasibility study.

Fairport Harbor/Hemisphere Appropriations Request

A request was sent to Congressman LaTourette's office in February 2007. As of last week, the request had not made it out of the Appropriations Committee.

High School Student Coastal Shoreline Input

Mr. Webster spoke at a meeting with some of the high school principals with hopes of getting a younger demographic outlook on the coastal plans. The principals will be meeting in August or September to discuss how they could incorporate this into their curriculum. The plan is to see what interests and ideas the students think would keep them in the Lake County area.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Action Plan

A historical perspective on the Coastal Plan Committee (CPC) was distributed that also contained a 2008 action plan. Restructuring of the Committee into three or four subcommittees or focus groups was discussed. The use of subcommittees/focus groups was discussed and approved by those present. However, the members did not want the overview committee to disappear completely and possibly go under the County Port Authority. As the Port Authority would be a newly formed board, members of the CPC questioned the interests in our initiative with the economic development group. They also questioned how the L.C. Economic Development Department and Community Improvement Corporation would be affected by the structure of the County Port Authority.

Statements made against folding the CPC down were: This is a forward-looking committee; the Coastal Development Plan (CDP) has something for everyone; it is an exciting committee that will make a difference; it is needed to pull the focus groups together and control overlap; and the Committee would lose its identifying presence and its plans may not come to fruition.

The members liked the subcommittee approach and agreed to establish the following focus groups:

1. Funding
2. Off-Shore Construction
3. Shore-Side Development
4. Intergovernmental Relations and Education

Mr. Boyd will contact the members who agreed to participate on the various subcommittees.

Other topics for future action:

- CPC's role with the Port Authority? As a standing committee, CPC would be a good asset. Our mission statement would have to be changed to include economic

development. Should this Committee be re-established under the Port Authority or remain under the Planning Commission? Discussed but no definite action taken. The County Port Authority could play a part on the funding side of our project.

- Increased presence of Coastal Plan Committee's members on state and regional boards and agencies. Mr. Urbanski is on a board of the ODNR.
- Mr. Urbanski attended a coastal erosion meeting and stated that coastal erosion was a huge problem for those residing at the river and lake. People are desperate to use anything that works (armorstone, etc.) to save their dreams and property from falling into the water. Mr. Allen challenged the County Engineer's people to make it part of their responsibility to make a treatise on controls for erosion both off shore and on shore. The average person is unaware of potential coastal erosion solutions other than armorstone.
- Dredging was a major issue that kept the existing port authorities from joining the County Port Authority. In order for this initiative to go forward over the long term, it was felt the local existing port authorities needed to meld into the County Port Authority. Everyone felt it was important to work with all the port authorities to find a way to combine these efforts so that there will not be five ineffective and separate requests for the same agency funding dollars. Regionalism was a part of this Committee's design.

Mr. Jim Barchok said they had been successful one year in getting the Corps to bring some of the dredged river materials back to the shoreline. A study was done by the Division of Geological Survey concerning this type of thing. He suggested getting the results from them.

- The possibility of purchasing a dredger unit by the County Port Authority or one community to be leased out to other ports to help lower the dredging costs.
- Ashtabula County is interested in the methodology used by us to move coastal planning up on their agenda. They have been impressed with our ability to continually bring all parties to the table and generally agree on a countywide plan.

Community Updates

At this point, each member present was asked if they were interested in any of the four focus groups presented. Some additional community comments mentioned were as follows:

Fairport Harbor – Hilston - The Ohio Department of Water approved funding for dredging the mouth of the Grand River to the Fairport Port Authority for \$20,000 this year and \$50,000 next year.

North Perry Village – Klco - JJR, Inc. has been hired to do a model of their project. Mr. Allen suggested finding transportation to go to Canada to see this site in action. Mr. Klco said it would be a seven hour drive. There were a number of people interested in going.

Madison Township – Advey – The Township is sitting on financial resources earmarked to be used for coastal improvements at Township Park.

Eastlake – Keneven-Zanella – The kayak rental business is open, running and doing well already.

Community Match Capabilities: Madison Township has funds that could be used as matching funds and so may North Perry Village. North Perry Village is privately developing their area. Fairport Harbor is already involved in a funding match with Hemisphere for implementing some of the Coastal Development Plan in their marina. Other communities need to be pursued for this purpose.

Governor Strickland showed an interest in our project and the possibilities surrounding having another Put-n-Bay type destination in northeast Ohio. He also seemed interested in the fact that we were getting a viewpoint from the area youths and had been working on this project for six years.

Mr. Barchok thought this Committee would lose its identity and its planning may not go further if it melded into the County Port Authority. Remaining as an adjunct advisory committee, it could be used to advise the County Port Authority if they wished. It could also be used for some advisory needs of the Ohio Sea Grant, OSU Extension (NOA) and the ODNR.

Mr. Webster suggested that staying under the Planning Commission has its advantages. They could do reports focused in zoning and subdivision aspects. They can help as a liaison to other communities/port authorities and the County Port Authority and with the inter-governmental educational aspect needed. Elected community leaders change often in the townships as well as other municipalities and will need to be brought up to date on the CDP. We need to keep contact with other interest groups as a coordinating body. The Commission should explore other ways they could help with expansion.

It was the consensus that the County Port Authority would need some time to grow and change. More clarification on exactly how this Committee would fit in with their goals and mission is needed.

This Committee should move forward with the communities that have not already started implementation plans that could fulfill the Coastal Development Plan (CDP). Eastlake and Madison Township are next in line along with Perry Township and Mentor-on-the-Lake. We need to know how to link the CDP with the agendas of community leaders and how to get more matching dollars in place. We need to get our community to a point where they understand what they want to do and what it is going to cost. The CDP cost estimates need to be updated.

Mr. Barchok thought it was not easy for a community to put together a plan. The Planning Commission could help them by documenting and helping with the presentation of the ask for

funding to ODNR, County Port Authority or congressional representatives. There must be a solid plan in place before asking for funding. This Committee is in a coordinating position if held together so these things can progress.

The subcommittee/focus group meetings will be held outside of this Committee's meetings.

Presentations

Mr. Boyd had taken a group of about 50 KSU Environmental Geography students to the Lakeview Bluffs site about a month ago with Soil & Water. He had done a guest lecture at Lakeland Community College last week and took them to Painesville Twp. Park. He and Mr. Allen did a few presentations with the Lake County Economic Development Strategy group at Lakeland, Mentor Rotary, Mentor Chamber and the Painesville Exchange Club. The video is still airing on the public access channel. He had a couple copies of the video with him if anyone was interest. He had received some good feedback.

Informational Items

Mr. Boyd brought attention to the last two articles distributed on Lakeview Bluffs and the IMG sports participation.

Adjournment

The focus groups will probably meet in July.

The next Coastal Plan Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, September 26, 2007. If an emergency meeting is deemed necessary prior to that date, the members will be contacted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by consensus.